

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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14

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 AID-05 /023 W

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R 130905Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0851

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

UNCLAS DOHA 1074

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP ECRE QA

SUBJ: UMM SAID HOUSING PROJECT POSTPONED

REF: DOHA 0350

1. REFTEL REPORTED INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 1200 HOUSING UNITS AT UMM SAID, SOUTH OF DOHA. IN RESPONSE TO INVITATION, OVER 60 FIRMS, INCLUDING NUMBER FROM US, SUBMITTED PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS BEFORE APRIL 30 DEADLINE. SINCE THEN, NO FURTHER STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY GOQ TO SELECT CONTRACTOR OR PROCEED WITH PROJECT. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS STATED THAT QUALIFICATIONS OF INTERESTED FIRMS WERE "UNDER STUDY", BUT PREVAILING OPINION IN BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAS BEEN THAT GOQ UNABLE TO MAKE COMPETENT TECHNICAL EVALUATION OF PLETHORA OF SKILLS, TECHNIQUES AND PROCESSES OFFERED BY COMPETING FIRMS.

2. WE INFORMED BY LOCAL MANAGER OF UK CONSULTANTS LLEWELYN DAVIES AND PARTNERS THAT FIRM HAS BEEN ASKED BY GOQ TO OFFER PROPOSAL FOR STUDY OF HOUSING NEEDS IN QATAR INCLUDING EVALUATION OF CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES. MANAGER SAID FIRM WOULD ALSO SORT OUT PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR UMM SAID PROJECT IF REQUESTED. HE SAID STUDY WOULD TAKE 3-4 MONTHS AND NOTED THAT SELECTION OF QUALIFIED FIRMS FOR PROJECT PROBABLY WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL EARLY 1976.

3. FOR ABU DHABI: REQUEST YOU INFORM STEVE BARNDOLLAR, GULF HOUSING, DUBAI FOR FURTHER DELAY IN PROJECT.

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4. COMMENT: IT APPEARS STUDY REQUESTED BY GOQ IS IDENTICAL

TO ONE PROPOSED BY AID OFFICE OF HOUSING IN JANUARY, 1975.
AID PROPOSAL, SUBMITTED AFTER EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY GOQ,
INCLUDED OFFER OF CONSTRUCTION SPECIALIST AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
TEAM FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM. AFTER CONSIDERABLE
FOOT DRAGGING WE WERE INFORMED BY GOQ THAT DUE TO NECESSITY OF
RELIEVING HOUSING SHORTAGE IMMEDIATELY, DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN
TO LAUNCH UMM SAID PROJECT WITHOUT LUXURY OF DETAILED ADVANCE
PLANNING. EVIDENTLY GOVERNMENT HAS FOUND ENSUING JUMBLE OF
PROPOSALS SO CONFUSING THAT IT HAS TURNED AGAIN TO IDEA OF LONG-
RANGE PLANNING AS A MEANS OF PROVIDING COHERENT FRAMEWORK
FOR HOUSING PROGRAMS - ALMOST A YEAR AFTER GOQ FIRST EXPRESSED
INTEREST IN BUILDING INDUSTRIES CONSULTANT (KUWAIT 4882 - 1974).
YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, HOUSING, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DOHA01074
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750318-0196
From: DOHA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750953/aaaabuqs.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 DOHA 350
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <30 JAN 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UMM SAID HOUSING PROJECT POSTPONED
TAGS: BEXP, ECRE, QA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006